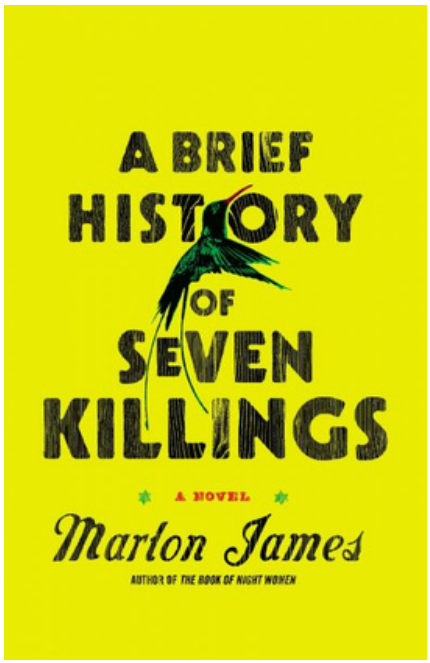
Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards*



A Brief History of Seven Killings

Marlon James

2015 AWBA Fiction Winner

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is divided into five major sections, spanning over 30 years, and explores a period of political and social instability in Jamaican history. How does the novel's structure deepen your understanding of the historical context of the plot? In what ways do the transitions highlight the long-lasting effects of the events depicted?

2. James incorporates a mix of dialects and language throughout the novel, including Jamaican patois. How does this use of language develop character and create atmosphere, and what impact does this have on the reading experience?

3. Violence plays a significant role in *A Brief History*, both on a personal and societal level, depicting brutal acts stemming from the political and social instability of 1970s Jamaica. Discuss James's use of violence as a way of drawing attention to the wider societal conditions in Jamaica during this time. Do you think these graphic portrayals are justified within the context of the novel's themes and setting?

4. 'The Singer' is based on renowned Jamaican reggae artist Bob Marley, yet rarely named as so. How might this choice by James affect the portrayal of the character in the novel?

5. Have you ever had a personal interaction with a celebrity? Share whether the encounter reinforced that celebrity's public image or if you learned something about their private character.